

A Nautical Yarn

Words published by Keighley Goodchild in 1883 with the 'Dreadnought' named as the tune, but the tune here, 'Villikens and His Dinah' has become standard. Goodchild (1851–1888) was a journalist and bush poet, writing his best known ballad 'While the Billy Boils' in 1882

I sing of a cap - tain who's well known to fame;
A nav - al com - man - der, Bill Jinks was his name,
Who sailed where the Mur - ray's clear wat - ers do flow,
Did this fresh - water shell - back, with a yo heave a ho.

To the Port of Wahgunyah his vessel was bound
When night comes upon him and darkness around;
Not a star on the waters its clear light did throw;
But the vessel sped onward with a yo heave a ho.

'Oh, captain, oh captain, let's make for the shore,
For the winds they do rage and the winds they do roar!
'Nay, nay,' said the captain, 'though the fierce winds may blow
I will stick to my wessel with a yo heave a ho.'

'Oh, captain, oh captain, the waves sweep the deck,
Oh, captain, oh! captain, we'll soon be a wreck—
To the river's deep bosom each seaman will go!
But the captain laughed lightly, with yo heave a ho.

'Farewell to the maiden—the girl I adore;
Farewell to my friends—I shall see them no more!
The crew shrieked in terror, the captain he swore—
They had stuck on a sandbank, so they all walked ashore.